10/19/70

Dear Jim,

So many incredible coincidences are involved in your letter of the16th, and in itself it is so interesting, I answer it first of the large mail today. My wife is doing some temporary work for a friend, which means I take her into twon in themorning. I then pickup the mail at the post office and begin the day answering it rather than having the day interrupted later in the morning when it is left in out box. I cannot see the road from our secluded home, and often, if the mailman is late, I make several trip, each of 1,000 feet. While the exercise is good, it comes at a bad time, so when I can I pick up themail. I noticed letters from several younger correspondents and was thinking about them driving home.In one case I was planning the anticipated needs of the reply, and they deal with a variant of the generation gap. In the second case, that of a first-generation American, there is an entirely different story I now cannot go into. Some day hww when, hopefully, I am out there, perhaps it will interest you.

Recently I was visited by a radicalized young writer friend with a companion who'd gone to Cuba to help with the harvest. If you'd heard what I told them, without good reception, you'd know how closely we think. They are all Che, without real understanding, only dedication. They were unreceptive to my criticism of his Bolivian futility, rejected my suggestion they read his diary and ask themselves if it was ever more than a futility (I was once an authentic Latin-America expert, good enough to call the turns in revolutions before reached), and challenged them to believe in Che's Bolivia venture and Mao at the same time.

I did not know of your China experience, but again you touch my past. It is I who resurrected Evans Fordyce Carlson from oblivion, when I was free-lancing. I'd been Washington correspondent for Click, Moe Annenberg's and then third-largest picture magazine. My exposes - I think I can without immodesty describe them as the best on the Nazi cartels - got Walter (Moe was in jail) is social difficulties with his Main Line friends and financial difficulties with the "America First" Chicago banks that held the Annenberg paper. Click got cleaned out and its scarce paper was used to start Holiday or Seventeen or someother success, for the changed policy made a failure of the magazine that had, uniquely, made money on circulation alone. One of the stories on which I was working when the ax fell was Carlson's. I sold it to a small magazine, since folded, for $100. They showed it to Readers Digest, which offered them $1,000 for it if the Digest could plant it elsewhere. There apparently was some fear of leftist connections. The editor figured if it was worth that to the Digest it was worth that to him to build his magazine and turned it down. Result: the whole thing was plagairaized, including what came from it, the movie Gung Ho! (My title, too)....Almost the last thing I did for Click was a story predicting everything Japan soon did (appeared 9/15/42), with a single error-I predicted an attack on the Amur River line. This dated back to the very early 30s, when as a student I was a friend of a White Russian scientist who'd fled to China, where he'd become the equivalent of the Secretary of Agriculture. He was probably the world's greatest expert on soy beans. He had a copy of the Tanaka Memorial he gave me. I then did several pieces on it, one syndicated by the old Philadelphia Ledger syndicate, and remembered it at the right time. I then did an enormous amount of checking, with the help of the Chinese Embassy in DC, which was able to provide such things as old and more recent maps. It is simply beyond belief how old Tanaka was taken literally. The rest was analysis....I was doing radio news at the time Chiang fell (and was familiar with his earlier career and the other events from my own reading, like Malraux). What few people understand is that everybody wanted to get rid of him. As fast as we trained and equipped a division and sent it forward, it deserted, from top general to last private. I followed this closely then. Such things got bare mention, but they were reported-and missed...

Kaiser: I have read the condensation only.

Based on that, I'd say he is much better than an Epstein. I hope to find out soon for I've made two efforts to get in touch with him to offer him what I have that is, perhaps, relevant and may address what from the condensation he finds as voids in his case. If you read COUP I (which Hal has), you'll understand. This relates to the Duarte ploy and its remifications, all the most extremeof the radical right. Walker, Hargis, Bringuier, Pemabaz, etc. And I've a bit on the Arab right extreme in LA, including a wealthy one...I suppose most of us with some political understanding immediately conceived some form of the seemingly impossible. In my own and immediate forumlation, I just figured somehow he'd been turned on at the right time, really before anything came out. Nothing else made sense. I was perhaps more shocked than most because I'd predicted Bobby's assassination, in writing, as recently as that January in a letter to Jess Unruh and it is my story that Mark stole and jazzed into the incredible with his "too many guns" bit. I got it not from any "emmissary" but from a Bobby man on a business trip, one I knew. I've come to understand a bit about "turning on" because of the flattering number of concerned strangers to whom I've done this, without intending it. One who I've never met, and a very rbight one, having asked and gotten this estimate of what I believed behind the Bobby assassination, sent me a novel that is, in some ways, closer than what we all thought of, the Manchurian Candidate. It is The Billikin Courier, by T.C.Lewellen (Random House/Popular Library). But your reporter's ~~ex~~ comment is, I thin, very valuable, for it tends to confirm, as a qualified, experienced observer can...There is another part of my past that came to mind at the time of the killing: the great strength of this very small man. I spent several months during WW II guarding a locked ward in a very large mental hospital the Army had taken over. The soldier in that ward had the only key. Not even the nurse on duty when there was no doctor, not even the doctor, held the key. During all the hours I spent there, I never saw a man when he was violent, never had a single case of misbehavior to handle. However, one night just after my detail had been relieved, one of the soldiers, also a small man, probably the smallest and certainly, to my observation, the most docile, went of his rocker. Seven men, all strong soldiers and one a former regimental judo expert, couldn't handle him. He threw them and from the accounts take this literally, like corks. Then the nurse decided she had to try, a rather daring thing. (She was a pretty girl and a sensitive one who was also having an affair with a perfectly rational patient who was bucking himself a Section 8.) She walked up to this wild donnybrook and very quietly addressed the patient by his last name, chiding him just a bit. At the same time she asked the other to withdraw, and they did. She then just talked to this man, explained that what he was doing was bad - for everyone, including him- and what he had to help her do. Believe it or not, he assented to her lashing him to his bed with a device more restraining than a straightjacket, and she did it, entirely alone, without a bit of trouble....At some point one of the younger of us, taking a doctorate at Mayo in psychology, will probably address himself to this aspect. I've not encouraged him to think of it now because he is working his way and his orals comes soon. He is the one to do it. I think he'll be able to come up with something... One other thing from the past (and another expensive plagiarism- I must sound paranoid!) comes to mind. The last thing on which I worked in OSS before getting ~~ax~~ medical discharge was the secret historyx of its secret operations. I had the whole thing outlined, all the research done and the writing begun when I was civilianized and hired back as a consultant in a different part. Thatxx original work was done in a shop largely staffed with Hollywood people. The work was somehow taken, lock, stock and case histories, and appeared, with consummate fidelity, in O.S.S., in which Cagney starred. The part that was not movie material had to so with the unbelievable emphasis on psychiatry, psychiatric testing, etc. If you want to know the extreme to which this was carried, one of the teams jobs to which I was also assigned was the preparation of new school texts for the day when we had an Army of Occupation in Japan. To preare us for this, we were supplied with all sorts of such stuff. One I still recall vividly was a scholarly dissertation on how the Japanese character is formed by what was represented as Japanese bowel habits! CIA had gone much further, from every indication I've been able to get... So, what I am saying is that immediately I had good reason to develop the belief I've

since seen no reason to consider impossible.

The radicalized writer to whom I referred earlier began and abandoned what might have been productive work on the Malcolm X assassination. He did get to the point where the official story cannot be accepted. I think this is oneof the things that radicalized him. He began as a peacenik. He is very bright and a good investigator. He did very good things for me. The militant blacks took an oversimplified position. This fits someof yout other comment. As one told me, "We know the CIA did it, so why waste time on it?" I do not for a single minute really believe that old Muhammed was behind it. I hope someday soon to be able to talk with one who was his secretary for years, a close friand of a close friend.

Returning to Sirhan, I found what for me is a clue in his "defense". If he could, in that morass of "scientific" evidence that must have set psychiatry back 25 years, fairly be said to have practised self-hypnotism (and here again I refer to The Billikin Courier), what reason is there to believe it impossibleor even improbable that another or others figured in this?

Hal's caution about the LA people is worth heeding. He was recently told by one of the more far-out ones that the story of the Dryer beating is a fake. I've had some dealings with somexx of the people Charach uses, and they are totally without credibility. Some are self-seekers and phonies. A trusted LA reporter who is a friend recently told me of speaking to Noguchi. He quotes Noguchi as saying that while there are questions that were not asked, they are not, really, that relevant. Reporter checked the available footage and find no confirmation of what Charach says. I have no doubt that the guard was as described, from my own previous, extensive experience with such types, accurately. But this is not the same as proof that he did what was alleged. I am willing to be lieve it possible (I right now have a good source inside the Minutemen, so I am current with extremist thinking), but so are many other things. The thing that most impressed me about Charach's case is the Isaacs association with it. I understand, without details, that he cooled. And I am most concerned by the flocking to it of those who were not inaccurately described as out "marginal paranoids", those otherwise fine and balanced people who on this subject are our lunatic fringe.

I enhoyed your letter so much I'm taking too much time. Onx guerrilla warfare in the cities: do you visualize the entire city starved out to starve a small and mostly unidentified minority?frmx I think that whether or not the guerrilla warfare can accomplish a revolution, and here I agree with you, there is no possibility it will not succeed in the ruin that it intends. The left extremist attitude, as best I can understand it from very limited association with very few, is that this society doesn't deserve to survive and it will have to be utterly ruined so a new one can spring up from these ruins. They believe it...Yet they cannot cite a single spontaneously-arising, genuinely democratic or leftist government replacing any ruined fascist one.

We are all in accord on Paul; we agree he is not the sell-out type, and agree he is so wrong he has to know it. I don't know where this leaves us. From what he has been sent, there is no erect remnant of his structure. And he remains silent. I have never had any but the greatest respect for Paul and his fine intelligence. There is nothing consistent in this. I also have trouble believing he is off an what is becoming less uncommon, since Garrison and Lane, an ego trip. But, there have been too many little ones, including from those I'd have believed least susceptible, and there is current but unreported a major one involving xx a man of whom I'd not have expected it for several years. It is not entirely impossible, the mind being what it is. None of this addresses the essence, the potential for harm...If I do not always copex with these things successfully, I feel I must in each case make the attempt. In suggesting that what seems like coincidence with imminent federal distress may be other than

only coincidence, I did not have Paul in mind and I did Alvarez. In another foray into psychiatry (did the WC hold an amateur patent?), I suggest that Hiroshima guilt can express itself in many ways. On another approach, this is an arrogant, authoritarian man whose letters (and I have some) are not unlike a polite fascism. He regards himself as beyond questioning. Long ago Paul told me of this project. He accepted none of the suggestions or offers I made and rather ostentatiously ignored the ballistics expert I suggested he consult. Paul did not, until recently, indicate this project was Alvarez' concept, not his own. The bull head has not moved that far. I believe him. So, the question of coincidence involves Alvarez' connections and interests, not Paul's. I cannot conceive that they could coincide. If we were to regard this as a normal Alvarex-type reaction, then the last reasonable date for it is the Shaw trial, the most reasonable late 1967 or early 1968.

I do hope you again get a chance to "run along at this great length". I must get to other things. I'll be writing more on other things soon. Sorry there isn't time to correct typos. Best to you both,

Sincerely,

Later 10/19

Thanks for the enclosures, which I'll read tonight.

I've forgotten the last name of the elderly man. He is Leon. He was editor of the Painter's Union paper and involved in some controversies thereby, their nature being dim in my mind now. Possibly with the Teamsters. He is SWP, possibly their oldest Bay area member. Struck me as a very nice old fellow, very alert, unusually well preserved and active for his years, very sincere.

Hal may or may not have told me of G-2 experience. I think he did, but I'm not sure.

With East Europeans, the generation conflict was greatest, and with Germans, for the authoritarianism with which the parents grew and so many tended to practise was over and above normal parental control and no more acceptable to the kinds. However, I do not believe this is the answer. I am more inclined to lean toward a kind of insecurity and an excessive female domination (also not uncommon-my father used to order my mother, "punish your son").

We are in accord on Hal's warmth, genuineness, decency and intelligence - and in the prayerful hope he is not going to be hurt. For him, such a hurt could be worse for many reasons. If there is no reason to expect it, there is cause to consider it possible. If it does happen, I am so glad you two are there and that he feels of you both as you must know he does!

Before I have to "split", let me tell you of an unrelated strange case. Hoke May was a deskman on the States-Item. He got an interest in an ad agency, started working and rose in New Orleans Magazine (Hodding Carter), suddenly developed marital difficulties, etc. He was Garrison's strongest supporter in the press. He takes up with a very young (pretty in face and body) chick working for the FBI. He marries her. They are now separated. But this was his condition when he lost all interest and participation down there. I met him once after this girl entered his life. He was as disgustingly drunk as I have even seen any man, and my own elbows lifted more than a reasonable share in their time. I had never met this girl. She could not have been more openly antagonistic (and cold sober), even hate-filled. Yet I, presumeably, was a total stranger. She knew all about me, too. Can it all be coincidence? Sure. What is not is her hatred of me and her sympathy with Hoke's beliefs. I doubt she'd have shown her feelings if he were not far past any possibility of recalling any of the incident.

Sincerely,